

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 34 – 36, 38 – 63 and 66 – 67 are currently pending in this application. Claims 34, 38, 39, 55, 57 and 58 have been amended. Claims 1 – 33, 37 and 64 – 65 are cancelled. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 37 – 40, 47 – 50 and 58 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 34 – 36, 41 – 46, 53 – 56, 59 – 63 and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,588,682 to Flieger.

Claims 51, 52, 57 and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Flieger.

Without conceding the validity of the rejections and in the interest of advancing the application to allowance, claim 34 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 37, rendering the rejection moot. Claims 35 – 36, 41 – 46, 51 – 57, 59 – 63 and 66 – 67 depend, either directly or indirectly on allowable claim 34 and are therefore likewise allowable. Since only allowed claims

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remain in the application, withdrawal of the rejections under sections 102 and 103 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a further interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 34 – 36; 38 – 63 and 66 – 67, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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